

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE
Week ending the 23rd June 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 11th June has the following:—

HABLUL MATEEN,
June 11th, 1900.

The Persian loan.

A great mystery underlies the fact that although Russia, as regards her fighting strength, is a first class Power in Europe, she is always at the mercy of other Powers in regard to finance. And such being the case, how is it possible for her to advance a loan to Persia? Of course Russia has a secret object, the effect of which will be seen hereafter. A few papers say that a mission has been sent to Persia by Turkey to see whether it would be possible for her to help the Shah in the present emergency, which has compelled him to borrow. Whatever has been said by the Russian papers in this connection is not free from hypocrisy and ambiguity. A good many Russian subjects—both Christian and Musalman—being sorry at this action of Persia, which forebodes evil to her, are abusing the Persian Government. They say that Persia, once a prosperous kingdom, became so poor within the fifty years' reign of the late Shah, that he is now going to take a loan from a foreign Power. They also say that such a poor loan can be easily raised in Persia itself. A country incurs national debt, generally, for the purpose of executing works of public utility, if the resources at the disposal of the Government are not sufficient to meet the expense. But no such work is being done in Persia. Some say that a loan has been proposed in order to meet the expenses incidental to the Shah's visit to Europe. If a loan is raised, the Persian Government will have to pay interest for fifty-five years, and will have to put her revenue management under the control of Russia, if there be any delay in the payment of the interest. This action of Persia will dissatisfy Persian subjects and the Russian Musalmans. It will be remembered that the *Zia* paper, published at St. Petersburg, once said that during the fifty years' reign of the late Shah the Persian kingdom made no sufficient improvement, and that whatever improvements the late Shah began are still incomplete. His frequent visits to Europe caused a heavy drain upon the exchequer. During his absence official oppression became so unbearable that the people fled from Persia.

The *Ekdan*, a Turkish paper, says, with reference to the Persian loan, that if the Persian Government had always acted in consultation with its consulting body, no such concession as the establishment of an English or a Russian Bank, etc., would ever have been granted either to England or to Russia, and there would have been no need for a Persian loan.

2. The same paper has the following:—

Islamic law in Persia.

Unless the law of Islam is enforced by the *alims* among the followers of Islam, it will not be popular among them. At no time has any Islamic ruler, who has stood firm for the propagation of the Islamic law, met with any obstacles, and no institution for the administration of justice according to the principles of Islam has ever met with failure. European law is ruinous to the Persian kingdom, and the Europeanised community of Persia will do a good deal of mischief to the country. If we, Musalmans, want to do anything for ourselves, we ought to strictly follow the commandments of Islamic law.

HABLUL MATEEN.

3. The same paper is sorry to hear from the *Almoyad* newspaper that a

HABLUL MATEEN.

An order of the Bulgarian Government.

brutal order has been issued by the ruler of Bulgaria directing the Musalmans of that kingdom to keep their shops closed during the Christian Sabbath day and other Christian holidays and also to convert into a church the masjid of Senán Pasha.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June has the following:—

HITAVADI,
June 15th, 1900.

The Pretoria rejoicings.

What have we done? For the purpose of defeating the petty, insignificant Boers we have consigned thousands of British heroes to the seat of war, and like the showers which fall in the rainy season have showered gold and silver. We have kept ten men ready and equipped before one man. This war has made it known to the whole world that England possesses wealth and men, firm resolution, and the spirit of nationality. The sovereigns of the world have looked at Britain with eyes expanded with wonder and understood that the various peoples of that vast empire on which the sun never sets are bound in one

chain; that the countries which make up that empire are all loyal to its sovereign and feel glorified in England's glory. From far off Canada to sea-girt Australia; from the coast of Africa to Hindustan; in all portions of the British empire, the subject people are ready, for the sake of the Empress of India and for the purpose of proclaiming the glory of her name, to spend money ungrudgingly and send fighting hosts to the scene of war.

Is there any native Indian subject of the Empress whose heart is not filled with delight, whose loyal heart does not feel gratified at thoughts like these? For that reason, we feel that this joy is natural and justifiable. But this leaping and bounding, this dreadful dance, this pleasure mixed with pride and conceit—is not all this matter for ridicule? What is there to boast of? It can never look well to take up such a proud and boastful attitude and indulge in such rejoicings on the approaching termination of a war in which victory has had to be purchased by sending troops a thousand times more numerous than those of the enemy and by spending heaps of money. Let worthless creatures, hankering after official favour, dissemble their real feelings and deck the gates of their houses with leaves and flags, or wreaths of light; let professional sycophants say what they please, we will freely and unreservedly say that these rejoicings are neither becoming nor opportune. Will these wreaths of light quench the heart's anguish of hundreds of British women who have lost their sons, brothers, and husbands? Will this dreadful dancing make us forget the fact of Boer bravery?

There is nothing to boast of in Britain's victory, but there is matter for pride even in the discomfiture which the Boers have suffered. Insects though they are, they attempted the task of quenching a powerful flame. This may have been indiscreet, but it was clearly evidence of courage. They were unable to make a correct estimate of their own strength and resources, and that is why they have lost their lives in an encounter with the powerful British Lion. Enemies though they are, we have still learnt to feel sorry at their misfortune. That with a handful of troops they ventured to oppose the British legions is a fact which reflects the greatest credit on the Boers. Their successive victories for the first few days are to them a matter of pride. Who did not know that they would be defeated? Why, then, so much rejoicing?

Monday, the 11th of June, was the day fixed for public rejoicing. But Nature proved unpropitious. She began to shed tears in the afternoon as if she felt sorry at the reverses of the Boers. The whole day the metropolis wore an appearance of sadness, and the sky was overcast with clouds, while at night the light of the full moon seemed pale and dim with grief. Nature marred the rejoicing of many a pleasure-loving citizen as if she felt that those wild and unnatural exhibitions of mirth and revelry were not worthy of British glory. Not a few flags were drenched and disfigured by rain, not a few leaves and evergreens torn and scattered by the force of the storm. Instead of the whole town being brilliantly illuminated at night, only one or two houses were decked with a few lights, and were dimly visible. Nature's favourite moonlight, too, became pale and looked sad.

The illumination of the maidan near Lord Roberts' statue was disappointing. What more could paper lanterns do? The rains seemed to set in at an opportune moment. Lord Roberts' statue, which is placed in a much-frequented spot, should have been more gorgeously adorned on that Monday than it was. If rejoicings there were to be, why, then, were not greater honours paid to the hero of Candahar, the greatest English General of the time? Why was not greater care taken to deck his statue, the statue of the man, that is, who in his old age retains the energy of youth, who never loses his patience and presence of mind in the hour of danger, and whose strategic skill is praised all over the world?

The stream of artificial joy could produce no effect on the sorrowful face of Nature that day. Neither the destruction of the Boer Republic nor the subjugation of the once-independent Orange Free State is a matter of much consequence in the country of Nelson. Why, then, all this joy? Even if there is great joy, why should it be expressed in this way? Why are all these wild and weird rejoicings allowed to pale the lustre of victory? The world would have joined in these rejoicings if England had remained humble in her glory and triumph. But the spectacle of the rejoicing will lead many to regard

those who participate in them as a worthless people. They may not give out what they feel, but at heart they will doubtless regard us as such.

5. The same paper says that the time has now come when England must decide the question of the future settlement of what were once the two Boer Republics in South Africa.

HITAVADI,
June 15th, 1900.

The future settlement of the Boer Republics.

Of the different proposals made by different political bodies in England in this connection, the most liberal and equitable is that which advocates non-interference with the independence of the Boers and a generous and honourable treatment of that heroic people. Indeed, Mr. Chamberlain has repeatedly said that England has no desire of territorial aggrandisement, nor does she seek to deprive the Boers of their independence. If, therefore, the two Boer Republics are now annexed to the British empire and the Boers treated as a conquered people, a stain will be cast on the honour and good name of England, and people will find an opportunity for saying that England's former promise in this matter was only meant to deceive the civilised world. A conqueror who is lacking in magnanimity, or who gives himself up to greed of money or territory, becomes an object of contempt. The conquest of Mexico by the Emperor Louis Napoleon only brought him discredit. It is our belief that the English are not low-minded. If the description of English character given in past history still holds true, it is almost certain that the English will not prove themselves wanting in magnanimity or anxious to deprive the Boer heroes of their independence. It is only proper that the honour of that heroic people should remain unimpaired at the hands of large-hearted conquerors like the English.

The lesson that the English have taught the Boers is such that it is not likely that they will again venture to take up arms against England. Their desire to measure swords with England has been probably gratified. Under these circumstances, if, instead of being put down, they are given back their independence, it is our belief that they will remain for ever grateful to England and become her well-wishers. But on the other hand any attempt to crush them will make the pacification and settlement of the Boer States, though not absolutely impossible, a task of formidable difficulty.

6. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 18th June has the following:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
June 18th, 1900.

The position of the British Power after the war.

The British Power is now unrivalled in the eye of the world. Its wealth, perseverance, and power of mobilising troops are wonderful. No other Power in the world can set such an example as England has. France, Russia, and Germany have all become crestfallen on seeing British prowess in the Transvaal War. Russia has probably given up all hope of ever invading India. The other envious Powers, who were glad at the reverses of the English at the commencement of the war, are now all alarmed at the exhibition of British prowess. If the English have lost many valuable lives and much money in the war, they have also gained much. Their power has become greater, their implements of war have increased, and they have become an object of terror to other Powers.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

7. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 8th June says that the zamindars of Banigram, in Chittagong, are committing various oppressions on the poor illiterate villagers.

SANSODHINI,
June 8th, 1900.

Zamindari oppression in Banigram in Chittagong.

8. The same paper says that the dead body of a poor widow lay for about three days in the house of Tarakinkar Babu, Overseer of Sitakundu, in Chittagong, and was not cremated before the fourth day after death.

SANSODHINI.

Delay in the disposal of a dead body.

The police, though informed of the circumstance, did nothing to dispose of the dead body in time.

CHINSURA
VARTAVANA,
June 10th, 1900.

9. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 10th June complains of the recrudescence of crime in the Hooghly district, and gives the following instances in which the police have failed to trace the culprits:—

- (1) Thefts in the houses of Phanibhusan Babu of village Baladbandh and Babu Hem Chandra Basu of village Panisehala, within the jurisdiction of the Haripal thana.
- (2) The murder of the daughter-in-law of Babu Umes Chandra Mukharji of village Tyagararamnagar, within the jurisdiction of the Tarakeswar thana.
- (3) The murder of the infant son of Mota Sunri of village Gordanga, near Tarakeswar.

HITAKARI,
June 14th, 1900.

10. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 14th June has the following:—
A new rule about dead bodies in cases of suicide in the Nadia district. Orders have been passed on the police in the Nadia district to send the dead bodies of all women, below the age of sixteen, who are alleged to have committed suicide by hanging, for *post mortem* examination. Men of all castes and nationalities are pained to see any outrage committed on a dead body, and the Government ought, therefore, to proceed carefully in laying down rules for the disposal of such a body. The orders referred to were not in force in the Nadia district before. Formerly, when a case of suicide occurred, the police came to the place of occurrence, and, if there was nothing suspicious about the case, ordered the body to be cremated, after examining it and ascertaining the cause of death. But this practice will no longer be followed. Every woman, under sixteen, committing suicide by hanging, must have her body sent for *post mortem* examination, even if the investigating officer is satisfied that death was actually due to hanging. This is horrible indeed! A *post mortem* examination is held for ascertaining the true cause of death and preventing cases of murder from being passed off as cases of suicide. It is not the intention of the Government to commit any oppression on the people in the name of *post mortem* examination. A dead body ought to be submitted for a *post mortem* examination only if there be any doubt as to the true cause of death. And we fail to understand why there should be any examination in a case which is not at all suspicious. If the Government can rely on a police officer in the case of females above sixteen years of age, there is no reason why it should not rely on him in the case of females below that age. Have the authorities ever thought how much oppression will be committed on the people in ascertaining the age of the deceased? Do they not know that though it is easy to satisfy the law, it is not so very easy to satisfy the police? Who is to be held responsible for any oppression that may be committed on the dead bodies of *zanana* women in carrying out the above order?

D AINIK CHANDRIKA,
June 20th, 1900.

11. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th June has the following:—
A promotion in the Bengal Police. It is said that a second grade Inspector of Police has been promoted to the post of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. We do not question the propriety of the promotion, as by the rules of the Bengal Police, a second grade Inspector can be promoted to an Assistant Superintendentship, if he has a good knowledge of English and is a good investigating officer. But it was not right to pass over the claims of abler and more competent police officers in the grade. At one time it was rumoured that Babu Nanda Kumar Bose, Reserve Inspector of the Bengal Police, would get the post. Nanda Babu knows English well and has also the reputation of being a very good investigating officer.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 12th, 1900.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th June has the following:—
The High Court's decision in an outrage case. One Jaimani Bewa of Mymensingh complained that she had been ravished by Gaura Changa, Rudra Changa, and Dayal Changa. At first Gaura Changa alone was

committed to the sessions. The sessions Judge, disagreeing with the verdict of the jury, referred the case to the High Court, which found Gaura Changa guilty, and sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment. Rudra Changa was then arrested and committed to the sessions, but was acquitted. Both Gaura and Rudra were implicated in the same crime and the same evidence was tendered against both of them. But one of them was acquitted and the other was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. So far as we know, the evidence against both of them was very weak, and the jury did not believe it. It cannot be said that the High Court cannot commit a mistake. We, therefore, request Sir John Woodburn to send for the records of the case out of kindness to Gaura Changa.

13. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 13th June has the following:—

Mr. Pennell's promotion.

PRABHAT,
June 13th, 1900.

The issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th June last contains a notification promoting Mr. Pennell. Mr. Pennell's name is not yet forgotten, and will not be easily forgotten. There has been much talk regarding him since his banishment to Noakhali, and even the Government of India has thought fit to express an opinion on the whole subject of Narsing Singh's case. The Government is displeased with Mr. Pennell, and the measure of its displeasure is far larger than it has given public expression to. The order for his transfer has been maintained, but when the time for his promotion came, Government promoted him. The only reason why the Government of Bengal is not transferring him from Noakhali, is that that Government never easily corrects a mistake committed by itself. It is doubtful, however, if Mr. Pennell will ever succeed in regaining the Government's favour and good opinion.

14. The same paper says that although Maulvi Bazlul Karim, Deputy

Maulvi Bazlul Karim, Deputy
Magistrate of Sealdah.

PRABHAT.

Magistrate, has been a short time in Sealdah, he has already earned a good deal of unpopularity in that place. When a Deputy Magistrate or other officer is transferred from the mufassal to Calcutta or any place near it, he should remember that, whilst a little *zubberdust* is good, both for the administration and for the officer's own prestige in the mufassal, *zubberdust* will never do in Calcutta, Sealdah, or Alipore. In the metropolis and places near it, *hakims* have no prestige beyond the Court precincts. The surging population of the metropolis, intent on their own business, perpetually come across *hakims*, big and small, but do not care to know who they are. A *hakim* may, therefore, continue hot-tempered in the mufassal, but he should cool down in Calcutta. The Maulvi Saheb should remember that he will fail to gain popularity in Sealdah, so long as he does not treat pleaders, barristers, mukhtars, witnesses, and the amla with courtesy. It will be difficult for him to remain long in Sealdah, if he treats those who have to come into contact with him in course of business, rudely, or uses rude words towards them. The Maulvi Saheb should follow in the footsteps of men like Babu Syamadhab Rai, the late Nawab Abdul Latif Khan Bahadur, and Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein. Whether the Maulvi Saheb makes a good or a bad judicial officer in Sealdah is of no moment, because there is the High Court to correct his judicial mistakes, but he should do his best not to displease anybody by ungentlemanly conduct.

15. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 13th June

Mrs. Lopez's case.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

says that in connection with Mrs. Lopez's case Mr. Hamilton, Magistrate of Khulna, has, in his capacity as Collector, departmentally fined the complainant, Purna Chandra Chakravarti, who is a clerk in the Revaluation Department of the Collectorate, one month's pay, and another collectorate amla, who was a witness for the complainant, ten rupees. The Magistrate has also requested the Subordinate Judge to punish his sarishtadar and another clerk. The Subordinate Judge, it is hoped, will not turn away from the path of duty at the Magistrate's request.

Purna Chandra will not probably, for fear of losing his appointment, make any protest against the Magistrate's action. But the High Court should send for the papers of the case.

Mrs. Lopez is reported to have said that Purna winked at her, and the Magistrate has mentioned this in his judgment. A very likely thing indeed,

seeing that Mrs. Lopez is only two score years of age, a very jewel of a woman with a jet—black complexion and a squinting eye. She hails from Madras, is a Christian by faith, and a sick-nurse by profession. The Magistrate, however, has exalted her by calling her a "lady doctor" and "a woman of European extraction." The writer has heard that Mrs. Lopez is proud of her beauty. Did she single out the poor Brahman lad, Purna Chandra, as the fittest person at whose expense to gratify her pride? It has transpired that Babu Hemanta Kumar Rai, late plague doctor of Khulna, lost his appointment through her ladyship's displeasure which he was unfortunate enough to incur.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

16. The same paper says that Mr. Sanders, Subdivisional Officer of Bihar, in the Patna district, was formerly a Settlement Officer. He was very successful in settlement work, because he could work very hard and had knack of incessantly moving about. Subdivisional work was probably new to him, and he could not make out what his duties as a Subdivisional Officer were. But he was not a man to sit idle or let his energies remain inactive. He took upon himself to move about the town from early morning, in order to find out men throwing filth or refuse on the streets. Anybody who allowed filth or refuse to accumulate before his house was immediately prosecuted under section 34 of the Police Act. He had these cases instituted not only by the Police, but in one instance he had a case under that section instituted by a plague officer. Mr. Sanders has been in Bihar for only a year and a half, but within this short period he has tried not less than twelve hundred cases under that section. To get up and try these cases has undoubtedly cost him a good deal of labour. But Mr. Sanders did not mind that, especially when the cases were fetching some money to the Government. The heaviest fine which can be inflicted in a case under the section is Rs. 50. But Mr. Sanders inflicted any fine he pleased without regard for the law. An officer like Mr. Sanders is best employed on settlement work, and the Lieutenant-Governor should be kind enough to grant the people of Bihar some respite by removing Mr. Sanders to such work.

SANJIVANI,
June 14th, 1900.

17. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th June says that the Legal Remembrancer is already at Ranchi and his Deputy is shortly expected to join him to conduct the prosecution of the Mundas. But who will take up the cause of the Mundas? The Government is surely planting a cannon to blow up a number of mosquitos.

18. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—
The first Munsif of Malda wanted to finish a case on a certain day. But a pleader filed an application for an adjournment. This so much enraged the Munsif that he threatened to turn the pleader out, by the neck, from his court. Of course, the Munsif was at perfect liberty to grant or disallow an adjournment; but he had no right to insult a gentleman in this way. The prestige of the law courts is compromised by such behaviour on the part of the presiding Judges.

SANJIVANI.

KHULNA,
June 14th, 1900.

19. With reference to Mrs. Lopez's case in Khulna, the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th June writes as follows:—
Mr. Hamilton in the Khulna case. We have already shown how unjustly Mr. Hamilton dismissed Purna Chandra's case (Report on Native Papers for 16th June, paragraph 22). Mr. Hamilton believed that Mrs. Lopez had remonstrated with Purna, because the latter had winked at her, and that Purna rushed into court for fear lest his conduct should be brought to the notice of the higher authorities and he should come to trouble.

Immediately after his return from Bagirhat, Mr. Hamilton visited Mrs. Lopez and a railway officer, whose name is not mentioned, and it is not even known whether that officer is a European, a Eurasian, or a native. The Magistrate heard from Mrs. Lopez that Purna had winked at her and that she had reported the matter to Dr. Dyson, the Sanitary Commissioner. Mrs. Lopez's statement appears as gospel truth to Mr. Hamilton, and on the strength of it he disbelieved and rejected as untrue the evidence of respectable witnesses for the prosecution. In his judgment he wrote:—"It is needless for me to say that I believe her." It is for the public and for Sir John Woodburn to judge how

far Mr. Hamilton was right in interviewing the accused behind the complainant's back, and in dismissing the case on the strength of the statement made by the accused in the course of such interview.

Purna is a youth of twenty or twenty-two, and we have long known him as a quiet sort of a man.

As for Mrs. Lopez, she is a Madrasi Eurasian by extraction, and is a resident of Vizagapatam. She is forty or forty-five years of age, and her complexion is the usual Madrasi complexion. One of her eyes is smaller than the other.

On the day following that on which the judgment was given, Mr. Hamilton fined Purna twenty rupees—a month's pay—and Kailas Babu, also a clerk under the Magistrate and a witness for the prosecution, ten rupees. It is also said that the Magistrate has privately asked the Subordinate Judge to punish his sarishtadar, Sasi Babu, and his muharrir, Priya Babu, for having given false evidence in the case.

On the 6th June last we applied in the court of first instance for copies of all papers connected with the case. The application, however, having been signed by the editor of this paper, the record-keeper hesitated to comply with it, and it was submitted to the Senior Deputy Magistrate for orders. The Deputy Magistrate saw no objection to the supply of copies, as there was nothing in the circular orders of the High Court prohibiting such action. But on the record-keeper explaining that there was a standing order prohibiting the supply of copies to a third party without the District Magistrate's permission, the Deputy Magistrate recorded his opinion and submitted the application for Mr. Hamilton's orders. Mr. Hamilton, however, disallowed the prayer and refused copies. Purna Chandra is a poor clerk under the Magistrate. He is not likely to further displease him by asking for copies of the papers or making a motion to the High Court. But the matter will certainly come to the notice of Government, and when it does so, the public will know what Mr. Hamilton has written in his judgment.

We have been astounded at Mr. Hamilton's illegal action in this case from beginning to end, and we ask ourselves if it is British rule under which we are living or is this country the abode of some savage mountain people. It is a discredit to British rule that the charge of a district should be placed in the hands of a despotic officer like Mr. Hamilton. From the investigation he held in the railway station, he must have been satisfied of the truth of Purna's complaint. Yet he dismissed the case. He took Mrs. Lopez for a "woman of European extraction," and on that assumption believed it impossible for her to use the language she was alleged to have used towards Purna. But we are at a loss to make out on what ground Mr. Hamilton thought that Purna had rushed into court simply to forestall Mrs. Lopez. Purna is a subordinate of Mr. Hamilton's, and will, of course, submit to any punishment he pleases to inflict upon him. But had it been any other man, Mr. Hamilton would not have escaped scot-free after committing such oppression. In that case, a motion would certainly have been made to the High Court against Mr. Hamilton's arbitrary conduct. We invite Sir John Woodburn's attention to this case, and hope that the High Court will send for the papers connected with it. Mr. Hamilton should be taught how the administration of a district should be carried on. The people of Khulna will soon come to a miserable plight, if the charge of their district is left in the hands of a Magistrate like Mr. Hamilton.

20. A correspondent writes the following in the *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 14th June:—

Babu Mahim Chandra Rai,
Honorary Magistrate of Kushtia.

Babu Mahim Chandra Rai, Honorary Magistrate of Kushtia, in the Nadia district, is becoming very unpopular. When he was trying a case the other day, a mukhtar happened to place his hand on the Magistrate's table. This so much enraged the Honorary Magistrate that he told the mukhtar, in a very rude tone, that he had committed contempt of Court by placing his hand on the table, and ordered him to pay a fine of twenty-five rupees. He at once stopped trying the case before him and began to draw up proceedings against the mukhtar. Mahim Babu was so much excited at the time, that, not satisfied with insulting the mukhtar publicly, he said that Joges Babu, the late Sub-Deputy Collector of Kushtia, had acted rightly in having a pleader arrested and brought before

HITAKARI,
June 14th, 1900.

him by a peon, and that, in order to maintain the prestige of the Court, it was necessary that pleaders and mukhtars should be harshly treated.

HITAKARI,
June 14th, 1900.

21. The same paper has the following:—

Custody of attached property.

It is the duty of the Courts to see that all attached property is kept in a proper condition. But judging from the way in which all such property is actually kept, it would seem that nobody is held responsible for its safe custody. We often see bedsteads and other valuable articles of furniture kept in a very careless manner. And it melts one's heart to see the manner in which attached cattle are kept. In every district and in every subdivision there is a pound for the reception of such cattle, and a charge, at a fixed rate, is levied from the owners for their feeding. The money which is so realised is not inconsiderable. But the way in which it is expended is a mystery. In every pound there are one or two huts, but seldom does one see any straw on their roofs. Nobody, again, seems to think that the cattle should be fed. There is a cowherd at every pound, and he takes the poor animals out for a grazing for a short time, and that is the only feeding that is done. The pounds are under the management of the nazirs of the Courts and seem to be private property. The Government or the officers of the Courts seem to have no connection with them. Nobody ever enquires whether cattle are properly fed and are properly housed. It seems that the nazir is at liberty to spend, as he pleases, the feeding charge which is realised. Money is realised and the account books show how it is expended, but not a blade of grass is ever bought for the cattle. The result is that some of the cattle die in the pound, and others are sold at very small prices. Is nobody responsible for this? The judicial officers, under whose supervision the pounds are supposed to be kept, never even dream of visiting them. The court being the custodian of attached property, it is not right for the judicial officers to depend so absolutely on the nazir for their safe custody. Is it not the duty of the courts at last to see that the nazir is doing his duty properly? The officers every day check the cash books, but do they ever satisfy themselves that the sum realised as feeding charge has been properly spent? There is a pound at Kushtia, in the Nadia district, for the reception of attached cattle. But its roof is almost strawless, and the hut is too small to accommodate the number of cattle sent to it every day. The condition of the pound was a little better in the time of Bipin Babu, the late Nazir of the Kushtia Court. He used to buy fodder for the cattle from time to time. But things have become worse after him.

PRATIVASI,
June 18th, 1900.

22. With reference to the inquest held on the body of Sarat Chandra Chakravarti, who died in a tramcar in Calcutta, being beaten by a Eurasian, named Augustine, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th June writes as follows:—

The inquest in Sarat Chandra Chakravarti's case.

Dr. Gibbons, who held the *post mortem* examination, deposed that Sarat Chandra's heart was diseased, having been larger than the heart of an ordinary man in the ratio of 8:1, and that the slightest hurt might have laid him dead at any moment. We ought not to question either the truth of what the doctor saw with his own eyes or the conclusion at which he arrived. But we cannot help asking if Sarat Chandra's heart, which, according to Dr. Gibbon's account, might have gone to pieces on the slightest touch, never came into contact with any soft or hard substance during the twenty-five years that he lived in this world, but waited only for a soft touch from a Eurasian's hand to take him to the next. We know nothing about Sarat Chandra's childhood, but can it be believed that during his whole child-life he never had a fall, which, weak-hearted as he was, might have killed him? Having to travel every day from the northern end of the town to Kidderpore, he must have had frequent occasions to run, but his heart never received the least shock. It was Augustine's fist which gave his heart that "least shock," which killed him, robbed his family of their bread-winner, filled the Bengali heart with consternation, and made people suspicious of British justice. It is probable that if Sarat Chandra had not this unhappy quarrel with Augustine, he might have, in spite of his weak heart, managed to live to a good old age and travel to Kidderpore every day for bread for his family. It did not matter much to him that he had a weak heart, because he was never likely to have gone to

South Africa to fight the Boers. Aye, the weakness of his heart was of no consequence to him; as, even with such a heart, he had the courage to call a Eurasian, dressed in hat and coat, a dog, and strike him with his umbrella.

It is idle for us to expect justice when Englishmen are the conquerors and we are the conquered. Napoleon's famous biographer, Abbot, has truly said that, reason as much as you may, the world will never come to the state in which people shall look with equal eyes upon Caesar's son and the son of the poorest peasant. English literature may be full of such liberal maxims as "in the eye of the law, white and black, rich and poor, high and low, are all equal." But, whenever a black native is killed, the plea of bursting of the spleen, weakness of the heart or softness of the brain, is sure to be heard. No trial will remedy this sort of thing. Even those European Judges who wish to administer justice impartially have to fear the opinion of their own community.

23. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 18th June is sorry to hear the

BHARAT MITRA,
June 18th, 1900.

The Nagri character in the North-Western Provinces Courts.

Musalmans say that the Persian character has been abolished from the Courts of the North-Western Provinces. Even if it had been actually abolished they would have had little cause to be sorry, because they would have lost nothing. The Nagri character can be learned within four days, whilst it takes several months to learn the Persian character. It is a matter of regret that the Musalmans are preferring what is not good for them to what is really good for them.

(c)—Jails.

24. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th June writes as follows:—

The Jail Resolution.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

The jails have become a burden to the Government. According to the statement published by the Government of Bengal in the Resolution on the Jail Administration Report for the past year, each prisoner costs the Government Rs. 48 (eight annas per day, taking into account the income from jail labour. For each prisoner, therefore, Government incurred last year an expense of Rs. 17,302-8. The less the number of prisoners, the greater becomes the cost of each prisoner because the establishment charges remain the same whether there is one prisoner in a jail or one hundred. An increase of prisoners is, therefore, good for the jail administration. But Government loses instead of gaining by an increase of prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment. Several means may be adopted for the reduction of the high jail expenditure. The first means which suggests itself for this purpose is the curtailment of the expenditure on diet. And Government has asked if the large expenditure on animal food in the Purnea jails was justifiable. It is doubtful if prisoners really get the food prescribed for them in the Jail Rules. It will, therefore, be very hard for prisoners if Government curtails dieting expenditure.

Another means of reducing jail expenditure is increasing the number of prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. Government does not like that men should be sent to jail to eat, drink, and sit idle. In the present resolution, therefore the Lieutenant-Governor says:—"The number of those sentenced to simple imprisonment has increased from 2,346 to 2,616, and the Lieutenant-Governor fears that the Courts are not always careful to impose a sentence of the latter kind only in cases where a term of imprisonment with hard labour would be unsuitable or illegal."

This remark of the Lieutenant-Governor's will be for the Magistracy, and especially for the Subdivisional Deputy Magistrates, a hint to the effect that the percentage of sentences with hard labour should be increased. The Jail Administration Report for the current year will undoubtedly show a larger percentage of such sentences; and Government's jail income will certainly increase to some extent. Another suggestion which has been made with the view of reducing jail expenditure is to send all those prisoners to the Andamans who are sentenced to long-term imprisonments. To keep a strict eye on prison labour is another means of increasing jail income and therefore of reducing jail expenditure. The Government is convinced that tasks are not rigorously exacted from prisoners. The Lieutenant-Governor says:—"The large number

of convicts sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and employed on such duties as involve little or no toil was commented on in the resolution on the report for 1898." One can scarcely believe that jail officers do not exact proper tasks from prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. The truth is that Government wants to exact more work out of the prisoners than at present. But though wicked men go to jail for doing wicked acts, their bodies do not become iron as soon as they enter a jail. Besides, is it right to exact hard tasks from prisoners without giving them full meals to eat?

(d)—Education.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 25th, 1900.

25. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th May says that though the appointment of two special Inspectors for Musalman education in Bengal, has, on the whole, improved the cause of that education, an anomaly in the division of the province for the purposes of inspection is standing in the way of any improvement achieved by those Inspectors producing permanent results. For the purposes of Musalman education, the Lower Provinces are divided into four circles, but there being only two special Musalman Inspectors, each Inspector is posted to a circle for only five years, at the expiry of which he is transferred to another circle, and the circle which benefited by his services during the last five years remains without an Inspector for the next five years. All the improvements effected by an Inspector in the course of one period of five years are not, therefore, followed up during the next period of five years. Nay, the cause of Musalman education being left, during the latter five years, entirely at the mercy of District and Local Boards, principally managed by Hindus, any ground which had been gained is lost. If Government divides the province into only two circles, each circle will enjoy the services of one Inspector or the other without interruption.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
June 11th, 1900.

26. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 11th June has the following:—
A high official of the Education Department once went to a healthy station for the recovery of his health. A writer of school-books, who was at the time living in the station, gave him his house to live in, and entertained him sumptuously. It was found on enquiry that the attentions shown to this official were prompted by a favour which the author had received at the official's hands in the shape of having some books written by him included by the official's influence in the list of text-books. We also know that books published in the press of a certain official of the Education Department have a sure chance of being passed as text-books.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 15th, 1900.

27. The residents of Kumedpur in the Rangpur district, and the late pupils of the Kumedpur Entrance school, established by the late zamindar, Chaudhuri Umaruddin Saheb, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 15th June regret that the Government, which is now the trustee of the *waqf* property of the above-named zamindar, should contemplate establishing only a Middle English school in the place of the Entrance school, which was established and provided for in his *waqfnama* by the late Chaudhuri Saheb. The school was well conducted during the life-time of the zamindar. After his death, his widow made over the whole property of her deceased husband to Government, and for some months, the teachers of the school received their salaries from the Collectorate. But, afterwards, owing to some troubles in the estate, their salaries were not paid, and one by one they left their employments, and the school was closed. The troubles of the estate have now come to an end, but Government is reported to have proposed the establishment of only a Middle English school in the place of the Entrance school, on the ground that the estate is encumbered with debts and cannot afford to bear the cost of an Entrance school. If this proposal is carried into effect, the high hopes entertained by the people of Kumedpur and the neighbouring villages of giving a high education to their sons will be dashed to the ground. It is true, the estate has yet to clear off heavy debts, but its assets are equally large, the rents of the raiyats being in arrear for so many as five kists. The

debt can be soon cleared off, if steps are taken to realise the heavy arrears from the raiyats. An Entrance school may, at least, be temporarily maintained with the assistance of a small number of teachers till the debt is paid off. The income of the estate is Rs. 8,000 a year, and its expenses, including the cost of maintenance of the Madrassa and the musjid, and the maintenance paid to the widow, amount to Rs. 3,800 per annum. There thus remains a surplus of Rs. 4,200. If a grant of Rs. 3,600 is made out of this for an Entrance school, such an institution can be efficiently maintained. The Government of Bengal is requested to take this prayer of the Kumedpur people into its favourable consideration.

28. The same paper says that this is not the first time the writer has to point out the ill-feeling of Hindu writers against the Musalman community. A book containing exhibitions of race-feeling cannot be read in all schools indiscriminately. A book named *kavita kusumanjali*, Part II, is included in the list of text-books for vernacular schools, although on pages 19 and 20 of its twenty-first edition it contains passages which must be regarded as objectionable by Muhammadans. Speaking of the "Kohinur," the author says on page 19:—

"স্বাধীন যবন গেছে গেলে তুবি পরে।"

And, again, on page 20:—

"না লাগিল ভাল ভব যবন আলয়।"

Is it right that Hindu writers should apply the hateful epithet 'yavana' to the Musalmans, and that Musalman boys and girls should read these writings from a tender age and learn to hate their own community? Neither is such a book good even for Hindu boys and girls, because it teaches them to abuse Musalmans. If the book is not removed from the list, the objectionable epithets referred to above ought, at least, to be removed.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June has the following:—

HITAVADI.
June 15th, 1900.

The new bifurcation scheme. It is the ruler's duty to impart a liberal education to the subject-people. But our English masters have now changed their policy, and say that with a view of turning out good clerks, good engineers, good blacksmiths, and good mukhtars, &c., the University curriculum should now be divided and re-distributed. "Advancement of learning" is the chosen motto of the Calcutta University which has for its object the spread of liberal education among the people. It is not, and it ought not to be, the business of that body to see whether good clerks, overseers, mukhtars, &c., are being manufactured in sufficiently large numbers.

Government says that the food question has reached an acute stage in this country, and it is now its duty to impart such education to the people as may enable them to earn a livelihood. Government has for this purpose sanctioned a bifurcation of studies, much like the bifurcation of the tongue which characterises the serpent, in all high schools in these provinces. It remains to be seen whether the new system will possess any other quality of the serpent, but this is what is called "bifurcation."

The resolution sanctioning the introduction of the new scheme has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. We shall not discuss the question of the text-books prescribed, for the resolution says: "The leading merchants of Calcutta advocate the introduction of these courses, as this would give them better clerks than those they now get." What the washerman wants is a donkey, and not a supply of Arabs. We have nothing to say to that, for the supply will depend upon the demand. The Chamber of Commerce lays particular stress on the necessity of teaching honesty, honour, and truthfulness to the students. We do not see how this can be accomplished, but something is sure to be done to humour the Chamber. Learning is its own reward, and the man must be regarded as an enemy of human society who would advocate the acquisition of learning for the sake of money. Do the English now, after so long a time, mean to be a trafficker in learning, like the village *gurumahasay* of the olden time, for the purpose of manufacturing only patwaris, muharrirs, munshis, and kanungoes?

An educated man can follow one calling or another, and devise means for earning a livelihood. He possesses self-respect, does not bend forward and *salaam* to anybody, say *husoor* or incarnation of justice, or try to hide himself as soon as he sees a *bara sahib*. But the clerks to be brought up under

the new system will become subservient, and be made to say and do anything which they may be ordered to say and do. This is all the advantage, and it is a very small advantage, that will be gained. Is it proper to cripple the system of University education to adopt such a tortuous serpentine course for the sake of this small advantage?

NAVA YUG,
June 16th, 1900.

30. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 16th June says that the Principalship of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, will shortly fall vacant on the retirement of Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Nyayalankar, and it is rumoured that Pandit Haraprasad Sastri will be appointed to the post. Pandit Haraprasad may have many patrons in the Education Department, but if the Government wishes to recognise true merit, Pandit Rajendra Chandra Sastri, who is not only a learned scholar, but a social, affable, just, and truthful man, ought to be appointed Principal of the Sanskrit College.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 12th, 1900.

31. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th June says that the Government having desired to transfer the management of the charitable dispensary at Mymensingh from the hands of the municipality to those of a Committee, a Committee has been formed of the following gentlemen: The District Magistrate, the District Judge, the Civil Surgeon, the Deputy Magistrate, Maharaja Suryyakanta Acharyya Bahadur, Maharaja Kumud Krishna Singha, and a few Commissioners of the Municipality. Henceforward though the Municipality will have no hand in the management it will have to contribute Rs. 5,000 every year towards the expense. This is indeed a strange arrangement. The District Magistrate or the District Judge will not be able to supervise the management for pressure of other duties. There is doubt whether the zamindar members will attend all meetings of the Committee. The Commissioners of the Municipality, too, being now relieved of all responsibility, will not take much interest in the management. The Civil Surgeon, therefore, will be all-in-all in the Committee. The elective system was introduced to teach natives how to conduct local self-government, and they were entrusted with certain duties. If all these duties are taken off their hands, one by one, what is the use of keeping up a mere shadow of local self-government?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

32. A correspondent writes in the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th June an answer to the allegations which were made in a recent issue of the *Sanjivani* against Babu Biraj Krishna Datta, Vice-Chairman of the Joynagar Municipality, in the 24-Parganas district, and some Commissioners (see Report on Native Papers for 19th May, paragraph 18).

SANJIVANI,
June 14th, 1900.

33. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th June has the following:—
The Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality have sanctioned an additional expenditure of Rs. 10,000 for the Accounts Department, and the General Committee has created the post of a Chief Accountant on a monthly salary of Rs. 750 to Rs. 2,000, instead of increasing the pay of the native assistants. It has also been decided to appoint a European chartered accountant to the post. Natives who have so long performed the duties of the post, have thus been deprived of it. The new law has placed the Municipality completely under European control, and natives will have very little chance of being appointed to high posts in it, all of which will be gradually filled up by Europeans. The General Committee and the Chairman are now all-in-all. The post of Vice-Chairman, hitherto held by a native, has been doomed by the creation of the new post of Deputy Chairman. Grave doubts are entertained as to whether the post of Vice-Chairman will be maintained after Babu Nilambar Mukharji has retired.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
June 18th, 1900.

34. A correspondent writing in the *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 18th June says, that the drains in the Brahmanberia Municipality, in the Tippera district, remain uncleansed, and are choked in several places. The municipal coolies do not do their work properly, and the Chairman of the

Municipality should keep a strict eye over them. There are many drains in the town which have not been cleansed for the last three or four months. The duckweeds which are deposited on the roadsides when tanks are cleared, are not removed by the scavenger carts.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

35. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 12th June complains that the Burakamata-Bamra Road, in the Tippera district, is in a very deplorable condition for want of repairs, and is causing much inconvenience to the public.

PRATINIDHI,
June 12th, 1900.

A bad road in the Tippera district.

Ruts have been formed in several places, and the one to the north of village Maheshpur is difficult to cross in the rainy season. The repair of this road has become urgently necessary.

36. Babu Gopaldas Sarkar writes in the *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 14th June that the road from village Chandpur, within the jurisdiction of the Kumarkhali police-station, in the Nadia district, which meets the Ferry Fund

HITAKARI,
June 14th, 1900.

A bad road in the Nadia district.

road at the village Punthi, is in a very deplorable condition for want of repairs. There are ruts in many places, and the road becomes almost impassable during the rainy season, and causes much inconvenience to the large passenger and cart traffic on this road. The residents of the villages Chandpur and Ramchandrapur have also encroached on the road by digging holes and depositing refuse and sweepings on it. Formerly the road was inspected by officers of the Government, and therefore, no one ventured to do any harm to it. But there is no longer any inspection of the road, and hence its present deplorable condition. The Government is requested to repair this road as soon as possible.

(h)—*General.*

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th June thus comments on the Government of India's order that Sundays and other Christian holidays are to be strictly observed in all public offices:—A strict order like this ought

SANJIVANI,
June 14th, 1900.

Holidays not allowed in Government offices.

to have been made also in the case of Hindu and Musalman holidays. We hope that Lord Curzon will not fail to pass such an order also. We know that the heads of offices in the Bengal Secretariat compel their clerks to attend office on gazetted holidays. Some of the assistants in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture had to attend office on the Queen's Birthday as well as on the Mafeking day. In this and other offices the clerks have to attend office by turns during all the holidays. The Director of Land Records, his Personal Assistant, and the Head Assistant are all against granting leave to their assistants even on holidays. We, therefore, request Sir John Woodburn to see that the circular of the Government of India is strictly followed in the Bengal Secretariat and in all the offices under the Bengal Government.

38. The same paper has the following:—

SANJIVANI.

A family favoured by Government.

Mr. Roland Nagendralal Chandra, the eldest son of Babu Biharilal Chandra, Sub-Registrar of Calcutta, got a Sub-Deputy Collectorship, by nomination and has since been promoted to a Deputy Collectorship, and is now serving as Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture. When he was in the Settlement Department, the Settlement Officer, Mr. Stevenson-Moore, was dissatisfied with his work, but this did not stand in the way of his promotion. Mr. Samuel Chandra, another son of Babu Biharilal Chandra, has been nominated for an Extra Deputy Collectorship. We fail to understand what has led the Government to bestow so much favour on a particular family. Not a word would have been said if the two sons of Babu Biharilal had got their posts by competition. Is there any mystery in the great kindness which has been shown by Government to this fortunate Chandra family?

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
June 15th, 1900.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June asks if any one can say why Mr. Woodroffe, Advocate-General, Bengal, has so suddenly resigned his seat in the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Sir Griffith Evans sat in the Council for a very long time, but Mr. Woodroffe has not remained there even for one full session. Is there any mystery in this? The public, out of curiosity, are making various conjectures as to the cause of the resignation, and the writer is anxious to know the truth that is at the bottom.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHAR MIHIR,
June 12th, 1900.

40. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th June has the following:—

The famine.

As sixty millions of people are at present living on Government relief, it will be wrong to suppose that Government relief is sufficient for the purpose. The British Government is in possession of a vast empire; but it has not felt any scruple in accepting foreign help in the matter of famine relief. And yet the Secretary of State for India does not think it necessary to ask for help from the Home Government, and is of opinion that the Government of India will anyhow manage to cope with the situation. The Government is taking a loan of three crores of rupees, and probably this sum will be expended on famine relief. The famine has assumed such fearful proportions that, in spite of the help of the Government, more than one-third of the people are to die of starvation. There is little hope that the situation will be better next year.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 13th, 1900.

41. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th June has the following:—

Cause of frequent famines in India.

There can be no doubt that the auspicious advent of Englishmen to this country has proved beneficial in many respects. But one bad result of English rule has been the increasing poverty of India. Everybody is acquainted with the cause of this gradual impoverishment of the Indians. Unfortunately the rulers are not prepared to admit it; for if they do so, they must also admit that the country is not administered in the way it should be. The cause of the Indians' poverty is that they are too poor to pay the taxes which the Government levies from them. That Bengal is more prosperous than other Indian provinces is because in Bengal there is the permanent settlement of the land revenues. In all other provinces Government is the landlord and all other people are raiyats. Government makes periodical settlements of the land revenue, which is enhanced at every successive settlement. The raiyats derive very little profit from the land, hence these frequent famines.

There is a great difference between the condition of the raiyat in Bengal and that of the raiyat in other Indian provinces. In Bengal, even if the zamindar levies high rents, the money comes back into the hands of the raiyat in some shape or another, for the zamindar spends his income within the country. But in the other provinces of India, where there is no permanent settlement of the land and Government is the landlord, the money collected as rent is mostly spent by Government in paying the salaries and pensions of its European officers. The thirty crores of rupees which Government has to remit every year to England as the home charges are all spent in England, while the salaries and pensions of European officers are spent by them in the purchase of English-made articles.

Even in Bengal the condition of the people, and particularly of the middle classes, is growing worse and worse. The cultivating classes now earn more money than before, but their expenses also have increased. They have now become addicted to luxury and litigation, and have to purchase salt and cloths which formerly they manufactured for themselves. The prices of many articles of daily consumption have also increased.

The condition of the middle classes has become deplorable. Their income from land, on which they depend for their subsistence, has remained stationary, while, owing to the increased price of almost all articles, their

expenses have increased. Many middle-class families formerly pursued various callings and professions. The introduction of English goods has ruined those callings, and all such families are now anxious to secure service. The impoverishment of the country is proceeding at a rapid rate, and will not be arrested until the outward flow of wealth from India is checked.

42. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 13th June writes as follows:—

PRABHAT,
June 13th, 1900.

The famine mortality.

The Government has not yet expressed any opinion as to the extent of mortality from pure starvation in the present famine. It is clear that the authorities are displeased when anybody says that deaths are taking place from that cause. That men are not dying of starvation in a widespread famine like the present one is quite incredible. The Government, that is to say, one of its high officers, Mr. Elliott, has admitted that a famine like this did not occur in India during the last 131 years. If as many as five lakhs of men died of starvation in the much less severe Madras famine of 1878, which was, indeed, nothing compared with the present distress, is it possible to deny that deaths from starvation are taking place in the famine of this year? The statement made by Lord George Hamilton that the mortality in the present famine is heavier in the Native States than in British territory is an indirect admission that deaths are taking place in British territory.

The death-rate is heavier in the Native States, because the famine-relief arrangements there are not so good as in British territory. The Maharaja of Jeypore, for instance, is more anxious to relieve British subjects than his own, and has, therefore, made a gift of fifteen lakhs of rupees to the British Government. But in British territory, also, the death-rate has increased. Men are dying in large numbers in every district of the Bombay Presidency in which famine has broken out. A large percentage of this is due to cholera, but starvation surely accounts for the rest. The mortality will continue increasing if the rains do not set in early. Men are dying not only for want of food, but, also, for want of proper clothing. At a time like this, a grant from the Imperial Exchequer will be a boon to India. But although the ministers constantly discuss the question in Parliament, they never venture to actually propose a grant.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June has the following:—

HITAVADI,
June 15th, 1900.

English writers on the famine policy of Musalman rulers.

Certain English authors have lately developed a morbid habit of writing disparagingly about the former rulers of India. These writers think that the glory of English rule will not be established in this country unless and until bad reports regarding the administration of India under the Moghul Emperors are circulated among the people. We have repeatedly shown that this attempt to vilify the Musalman rulers is as ridiculous as it is useless. "Even when famine made its appearance in the country and the people began to die of starvation, the Musalman rulers of India did not consider it their duty to grant relief to the sufferers. The Indians had no idea that it is the duty of the sovereign to save the subject people from starvation during a famine. It is the British Government that for the first time offered the Indians a practical illustration of that principle of famine relief." Such is the strain in which certain writers describe the glory and greatness of the British Government. The English are our rulers, and there can be no doubt that praise and imitation of these good qualities and characteristics are in various ways calculated to benefit us.

Nevertheless we do not, by any means, consider it wise or politic to wound native feeling by vilifying the past rulers of this country. The case becomes worse when, as in the present instance, the vilification is perfectly unjustifiable, because such unjust depreciation of past administrations is very likely to do harm to British rule. For everybody knows that the man who heard such unjust aspersions cast on Musalman rule would, instead of cherishing *bhakti* for the British Government, come to view it with dislike and distrust.

Still a class of English writers seem determined to proclaim to the Indians the greatness of English rule by resorting to this questionable and injurious expedient. Even that well-known writer, Sir William Lee-Warner, has endeavoured, with the help of Government, to teach Indian students false and depreciative views of Moghul rule. He says: "the Moghul Emperors did

not pay attention to such matters as excavation of canals, construction of roads and ghâts, prevention of famine, &c." Is the charge true? We ask the writer—Who made the Grand Trunk Road which traverses the country and offers exceptional facilities of communication, even to the present day? Can this imperishable achievement of the Moghul Emperors be obliterated by English writers with one stroke of their pen? Are not roads, ghâts, bridges, and canals of the Musalman period still visible in different parts of the country? Was not the principal *Imambara* in Lucknow in the time of Nawab Ashaf-ud-dowla built solely for the purpose of granting relief to respectable families which were stricken with famine? The achievement of the Musalman rulers will in this matter long bear witness against these false accusers.

History bears abundant testimony to the efforts of Musalman rulers to suppress famine. A brief reference may here be made to one or two well-known events. A fearful famine made its appearance in various portions of the Moghul Empire during the reign of Aurungzebe, of the Emperor, that is, who is now described as the most narrow-minded of the sovereigns of the Moghul dynasty. The birth of the Emperor's grandson was being celebrated at that time in the capital of the Moghul Empire with great pomp. There were rejoicings all over the Empire. That would very naturally be an occasion for turning a deaf ear to the cries of the famished people. But even in midst of those rejoicings and festivities Aurungzebe did not forget his duty. He suspended the collection of revenue as soon as the news of famine reached him, and the revenue that had been collected before the occurrence of the distress was, under his orders, applied to the purchase of food-grains for distribution among the sufferers. He also sanctioned a large expenditure of money from the Imperial treasury for the purchase of corn in Bengal and the Punjab and its despatch, by land and water, to the famine-stricken provinces. That corn was sold at a low price to those who could afford to purchase it and distributed *gratis* among the poor. In the famine which occurred in the time of Jahangir, the Emperor remitted revenue to the tune of four-and-a-half crores of rupees, and for the relief of the sufferers from the inundations of the Jhelum he directed the remission of one year's revenues, and when his Subadar refused to carry out his order, he dismissed that official and granted pecuniary assistance from the treasury to thirty thousand people. Any serious illness in the Imperial household was often the occasion for granting remission of revenue all over the country and distributing money among the poor. It was extremely natural that the people should regard such generous rulers with love and respect. Everybody can see how truthful those English writers are who desire to conceal these facts.

BANGA BANDHU,
June 16th, 1900.

44. The *Banga Bandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 16th June has the following:—

The famine and lack of English sympathy.

Two English newspapers the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Daily Chronicle* have sent special correspondents to India to see the dreadful figure of famine with their own eyes and exhibit it before the English public. The correspondents are every week sending vivid and heart-rending accounts of the distress to the papers with which they are respectively connected. But the intoxication of the Boer war has now reached its highest point and the English people are mad over the fighting that is going on in South Africa. They have no time to think of the starving natives of this distant land. There is here no clank of arms) no noise. The poor and helpless Indian is silently falling into the jaws of death. There is no intoxication in this. There is, therefore, very little probability that a perusal of a newspaper description of the present famine will evoke sympathy for the sufferers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,
May 24th, 1900.

45. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th May has the following:—

The Bengal's loyalty to the British Government.

For some time past Bengalis have been charged with disloyalty, and Europeans and Eurasians, both white and black, have gravely asserted that sedition is spreading among them. But everybody who possesses the least acquaintance

with Indian history knows that loyalty to the sovereign is a cardinal article of religious faith with the Indian people. Disloyalty did not exist in ancient India. If it has come to this country, it must have come in the wake of English education, English luxury, and English piece-goods from the country where the people are familiar with popular insurrection and regicide. There was no talk of sedition in the days of the East India Company or during the Sepoy Mutiny, or even for years after that event when sedition might have been expected to exist. But now when Her Majesty is governing the people with kindness, justice, and impartiality, as if they were her own children the charge of sedition is being brought against them by the ruling class. A deeply loyal and "sentimental" people like the Bengalis are extremely pained to find themselves stigmatised as disloyal, and instead of attempting to rebut the false charge feel their pride wounded. This attitude of sullen silence is regarded by foreigners as a lack of due respect for the Government.

It does not behove the Europeans in this country to look upon us with distrust and regard our complaints as expressions of veiled discontent. It was a mistake on the part of English legislators to make one and the same law for the native and the European in India. If they had not done so, the sentence of simple imprisonment for four months, passed on Sibold would never have caused surprise or evoked comment. This equality between the European and the native contemplated by the law can never be enforced or recognised in practice. Hence it is that the law is set at naught, Government is discredited, and the native press angrily taxes it for its partiality to Europeans. The result is, the English lose their Christian patience, become angry, and threaten the Indians with a sedition law. But the fact that the people avail themselves of the right of free speech which Government has given them and make their complaints and grievances known to Government shows that instead of being disloyal, they have confidence in, and respect for, the rulers. We, too, have our faults. Our expectations and aspirations are much too high. Why should a conquered and subject people enact the farce of begging for power? Why should we, again, make a parade of loyalty at every step? We are perfectly unfit for local self-government; internal dissensions, petty disputes, and personal jealousy are daily aggravating that incapacity. We cannot, under these circumstances, do without the English. The English, too, know this very well, and it is, therefore, very strange that they regard us as disloyal to the British Government.

46. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 20th June has the following:—

The *Englishman's* anti-native feeling.

The *Englishman* has reverted to its old anti-native tone in its notice of an article in the *Calcutta Review*. The writer says: "It is contrary to the most deeply seated principles of human nature that any large body of educated, ambitious, alien opinion should be sincerely loyal to a foreign domination." In commenting on the above, the *Englishman* writes:—

"Of course, this does not in the least imply that the bulk of the educated Indians are eager, either in a passive or an active sense, to see the last of our rule. Quite the contrary. . . . The educated Indian wants us to stay, but he would like us to stay for nothing. His ideal is a state of things in which the educated native should rule India, without any interference until his enlightened régime was threatened by a revolt of the uneducated in any part of the country or by an invasion from without. In that event the British would become interesting, but only so long as this interesting reign was in danger."

Coming from the *Englishman*, this is nothing new or strange. It is long since every Anglo-Indian paper has taken to indulging in such ridicule and derision and giving expression to such hatred. The only question is, is this a suitable time for raking up the subject? At the commencement of the Boer war every Indian community, literate or illiterate, grew anxious for the English and wished to see them come off victorious. And what has since happened to make the educated natives of India long for a transfer of the administration of their country from the hands of Englishmen to their own hands? How will it be liked, if we say that the loud praise of Indian loyalty which was for the last few months written in newspapers like the *Englishman* was nothing but hypocritical and the truth has come out as soon as the editors

PRABHAT,
June 20th, 1900.

have found their opportunity for speaking out their minds? It will certainly not be liked, though the *Englishman* has said worse things against the natives, and has openly accused them of hypocrisy. It is not yet many days since Pretoria was won, and the Editor of the *Englishman* has already given out what he had so long kept concealed in his mind. Is good feeling possible, under such circumstances, between Englishmen and natives?

Do not writings like that quoted from the *Englishman* fan into a flame the very fire of race animosity, for the putting down of which Government has made a new law? But Government is helpless here. Had it been a native paper, a Secretary to Government or a Magistrate might have sent for the editor and administered him a rebuke; and the native editor, trembling with fear, would have filled subsequent issues of his paper with eulogistic accounts of the authorities, and would have done anything and everything to please them. But an Anglo-Indian paper is not so easily controlled as a native paper. Nor can Anglo-Indian editors be kept under surveillance like the Natu Brothers. If they are prosecuted, their trial takes place before a jury in the High Court; and, according to the Government's own law, a European offender is at liberty to choose none but his own countrymen as jurors. We see every day what sort of a trial takes place when a European offender is tried before a European jury. A paper like the *Englishman* is, therefore, quite confident that it cannot be punished for exciting race-hatred. The Government, however, should judge who are the real offenders—the native or the Anglo-Indian editors. It will be a serious offence in the case of one set of editors to give vent to such ill-timed race-feeling without the least provocation, but it cannot be an offence when the *Englishman* is the offender and the offence is committed against educated natives.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 30th, 1900.

47. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 30th May strongly remonstrates against the union of judicial and executive functions in the Magistrates of India. He cites many instances of oppression, to which this union led, from the past administrative history of India, together with an account of punishments meted out to the erring Magistrates by their executive Government. The writer states that the proposal for the separation of these two functions has been before Government from the time of Lord Cornwallis; that Mr. R. C. Dutt, the late President of the Indian National Congress, has laid much stress on it, and that the Government cannot evade the question simply on the ground that there is no money for the introduction of the much-desired reform.

UTKALDIPIKA,
June 2nd, 1900.

48. The Kuapal correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd June suggests that the Kendrapara dak should pass from Cuttack through Kuapal, Salepur to Kendrapara, as by that means the residents of villages within the jurisdiction of the Kuapal sub-post office will receive their letters, &c., a few hours earlier, and it will be also convenient to the people of Kendrapara. The writer regrets that the sub-post office, once established at the Dhanmandal station of the Orissa branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which was only six miles distant from Kuapal, has been abolished.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 23rd June, 1900.